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LIFT, DRAG, AND STATIC STABILITY OF A BLUNT CONICAL MODEL IN HYPERSONIC RAREFIED FLOW

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FOREWORD

The research reported herein was sponsored by the Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC), Air Force Systems Command (AFSC) under Program Element 62405334, Project 8953. The results of research presented were obtained by ARO, Inc. (a subsidiary of Sverdrup and Parcel, Inc.) contract operator of the Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC), AFSC, Arnold Air Force Station, Tennessee, under Contract AF 40(600)-1000. The research was conducted from June 20 to July 15, 1964 under ARO Project VL2407, and the report was submitted by the author on February 23, 1965.

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This technical report has been reviewed and is approved.

Larry R. Walter 1st Lt, USAF Gas Dynamics Division DCS/Research Donald R. Eastman, Jr. DCS/Research

ABSTRACT

This is a report of results and analysis of measurements of forces on spherically capped cones of 10-deg half-angle, with and without conical afterbodies. These data were obtained during the course of an evaluation of a new three-component balance for use in a low-density, hypersonic wind tunnel. Comparisons are made with modified Newtonian and free-molecule theories. Measurements were made in nitrogen gas at a nominal Mach number of 9.8 and unit Reynolds number of 760 in. -1. The suitability of the low-load, three-component balance for measuring aerodynamic forces in low-density flows is demonstrated.

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NOMENCLATURE

A ₁	Moment arm between moment reference point and L_1 vector
A ₂	Moment arm between moment reference point and L_2 vector
A ₃	Moment arm between moment reference point and drag force vector
CA	Axial-force coefficient
c_{D}	Drag-force coefficient
c_L	Lift-force coefficient
$\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{M}}$	Static pitching-moment coefficient
C _N	Normal-force coefficient
C_	. Chapman-Rubesin constant $(\mu_{\mathbf{W}} \mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{w}}) / \mu_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{T}_{\mathbf{W}})$
D	Drag force (total of two drag components)
d	Model maximum diameter
L	Model characteristic length
L_1	Lift force (component No. 1)
L_2	Lift force (component No. 2)
М	Mach number
Mp	Static aerodynamic moment about moment reference point
m	Nozzle mass flow rate
Po	Reservoir total pressure
P ₀ ¹	Stagnation pressure behind a normal shock
q	Free-stream dynamic pressure
Reo	Unit Reynolds number based on μ_0 and conditions behind normal shock $-\rho_2 U_2/\mu_0$
Re	Free-stream Reynolds number

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- S Model maximum cross-sectional area
- S_{ω} Free-stream molecular speed ratio, $U_{\omega}(2RT_{\omega})^{-1/2}$
- T_o Reservoir temperature
- T_w Wall temperature
- T_m Free-stream static temperature
- U_∞ Free-stream velocity
- \overline{V}_{ω} Viscous interaction parameter $M_{\omega} (C_{\omega}/Re_{\omega_{T}})^{1/2}$
- α Angle of attack
- y Ratio of specific heats
- Coefficient of viscosity

SUBSCRIPTS

- 2 Conditions behind a normal shock
- d Based on maximum model diameter
- L Based on model characteristic length
- o Reservoir conditions
- Free-stream conditions

SECTION I

Multi-component aerodynamic force measurements on typically small scale models in low-density, hypersonic wind tunnels have not been published up to the present time, largely because of the requirement for a balance of sufficient sensitivity and accuracy to measure the small aerodynamic loads. The recent successful development of a threecomponent balance for use in the low-density, hypersonic wind tunnel (Gas Dynamic Wind Tunnel, Hypersonic (L)) of the von Karman Gas Dynamics Facility (VKF), AEDC, AFSC, has enabled such measurements to be made. This report contains data taken during the balance development period on a small 10-deg half-angle blunt cone which was previously used in studies of aerodynamic drag (Ref. 1). Although it was discovered that failure to achieve the desired accuracy in locating the sting in the models caused excessive uncertainty of moment coefficients, lift and drag were unaffected, and the data clearly seem to warrant publication because of the unique flow conditions.

SECTION II

2.1 WIND TUNNEL

Tunnel L is a continuous-type, arc-heated, ejector-pumped facility, normally using nitrogen or argon as the test gas and consisting of the following major components in streamwise order:

- Continuous, water-cooled d-c arc-heater. Thermal Dynamic F-40 or U-50[®], both slightly modified, with 40-kw selenium rectifier power supply. Gas is injected without swirl in the F-40 arc heater and with or without swirl in the U-50 unit. Unless otherwise noted, all testing is done without use of swirling gas injection.
- 2. Cylindrical, water-cooled settling section. Variable size, but normally of 3-in.-diam and 6- to 10-in. length.
- 3. Axisymmetric, water-cooled aerodynamic nozzle. Variable sizes with 0.10- to 1.20-in. diam throats and 2.0- to 8.0-in. diam exits. At this time three contoured nozzles having no flow gradients in the test section are available in addition to older conical nozzles.

- 4. Cylindrical test-section tank. 48-in. diameter surrounding the test section and containing instrumentation, cooling water connections, and probe carrier.
- 5. Axisymmetric diffuser. Interchangeable designs for varying test conditions. Convergent entrance, constant-area throat, and divergent exit sections. Water-cooled entrance.
- 6. Water-cooled heat exchanger.
- 7. Air ejector of two stages.
- 8. Connection to the VKF evacuated, 72-ft-diam, spherical vacuum reservoir and its pumping system.

All critical components of the tunnel and related systems are protected by back-side water cooling. The two-stage ejector system is driven by air instead of steam because of the ready availability of high pressure air at the tunnel site. Although the working gas normally is nitrogen or argon, other gases may be used.

2.2 NOZZLE FLOW CONDITIONS

The data were obtained using a semi-contoured axisymmetric nozzle designed for use with nitrogen as the working gas. Since the development of the three-component balance was the primary purpose of this test, the flow conditions were limited to a single condition as follows:

Test Region - at aerodynamic nozzle exit with 2.52-in. extension in place

 $p_{o} = 20.0 \text{ psia} \qquad q_{\infty} = 5.45 \text{ lb/ft}^{2}$ $m = 5.85 \text{ lb}_{m}/hr \qquad \text{Re}_{o}/\text{in.} = 95$ $T_{o} = 2200^{\circ}\text{K} \qquad T_{\infty} = 113^{\circ}\text{K}$ $M_{\infty} = 9.8 \qquad S_{\infty} = 8.2$ $\text{Re}_{\infty}/\text{in.} = 760$

This particular flow condition was chosen to duplicate precisely one set of data presented in Ref. 1, thereby obtaining direct comparison of the drag measurements with previous one-component balance data. Using the characteristic length as defined in Fig. 1, the value of the viscous interaction parameter, \overline{V}_{∞} , is 0. 40 for the Type A models and 0. 316 for the Type B models. Transverse impact pressure measurements taken at the test position are shown in Fig. 2 and indicate a usable core size of 0.8 in. The influence of axial-flow gradients in the test region is negligible because of the small model length.

2.3 MODELS

The basic configuration of the models is a 10-deg semi-vertex blunted cone with a modified spherical nose segment. This shape has been proposed for an instrument capsule to be used for planetary atmospheric studies. Two types of models were tested, one with a flat base and one with a 50-deg semi-vertex conical afterbody. The flat-based model is designated Type A, and the model with conical afterbody is designated Type B. The models are shown in Fig. 1 with a tabulation of the angles of attack applicable to each model.

At the time of model construction, a literature survey indicated that in previous tests of these shapes, moment was referenced to a point 42 percent of the base diameter behind the model nose. The models were therefore designed for the sting axis to pass through this point to eliminate drag-force influence on the pitching moment. A later literature search revealed that other data were taken using, as a moment reference, a point on the model centerline at 48.2 percent of the base diameter measured from the model nose. The data in the present report have been based on this latter position which is indicated in Fig. 1. However, a subsequent examination of the models revealed that, because of fabrication errors, the model mounting trunnion was positioned at neither of these stations, and an additional term in the solution for the static pitching moment was necessary to account for the drag influence. This caused much more than ordinary scatter and uncertainty in some of the moment data. Despite this error, the report is published because of widespread interest in data for the conditions simulating very high altitude.

2.4 THREE-COMPONENT FORCE BALANCE

The balance is of the external type and is composed of two drag and two lift links. Pitching moment is intended to be derived from the two lift links. The drag-force component is measured through two restoring links as a matter of convenience, thus allowing determination of an additional moment. However, at this time only pitching moment was determined. All components operate on the nulling principle. The mechanical arrangement of the balance is shown in Fig. 3. A complete description is given in Ref. 2 with a discussion of the balance performance evaluation and accuracy. The model aerodynamic static pitching moment is resolved from the lift and drag forces and measured moment arm lengths. This is illustrated schematically by the following example:



 $M_{p} = (A_{1})(L_{1}) + (-A_{2})(-L_{2}) + (A_{3})(D)$

(1).

Moment arms A_1 and A_2 are measured using a known reference on the balance sting and the known distance between the two lift components. Moment arm A_3 was determined in part by placing the models on an optical comparator with a dummy sting in place. Figure 4 is a typical result of this investigation. Although several traces were made of each model at random roll positions, the accuracy of determining A_3 was such that a degree of uncertainty was introduced into the solution of static pitching moment.

Aerodynamic forces L_1 , L_2 , and D are measured as individual lift forces and the sum of the two drag forces, each of which registered onehalf of the total drag force.

It is assumed that the sting mount was correctly placed on the model centerline. This was indicated to be essentially correct from the several measurements of moment arm, A_3 , which were made on each model and by the fact that each drag component registered one-half the total drag.

SECTION III EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE AND RESULTS

To check for flow angularity, the models were tested both at positive and negative angles of attack, i.e., nose-up and nose-down. Test duration was on the order of 45 sec to prevent excessive heating of the balance and to retain cold-wall model conditions. The wall-to-stagnation temperature ratio was estimated at approximately 0.30.

The aerodynamic forces acting on the model may be calculated from the balance restoring force measurements and expressed in coefficient form from the following relationships for the flow conditions of the present test. Force units are in lb_f and moment units are in in. $-lb_f$.

$$C_{M} = M_{p}/q_{\infty} S d = 269.11 M_{p}$$

$$C_{D} = D/q_{\infty} S = 134.55 D$$

$$C_{L} = (L_{1} + L_{2})/q_{\infty} S = 134.55 (L_{1} + L_{2})$$
(2)

The reduced data using Eq. (2) are listed in Table I. Figures 5 through 6 show the variation of C_D and C_L as a function of angle of attack. Since no flow angularity could be detected, data from Table I were plotted with no distinction being made between positive and negative attitudes. Appropriate sign changes were made in plotting the data. Included in Table I are values of the moment arms A_1 , A_2 , and A_3 . The values of A_3 are averages of several measurements. Figure 7 shows the variation of C_M with angle of attack. The estimated degree of reliability is indicated at each angle of attack from an examination of separate data points. Included in Fig. 7 are data of Ref. 3 at $M_{\infty} = 15$ in helium at a Reynolds number of 2.25 x 10⁶ based on model maximum diameter. The data taken at $\alpha = 140$ and 170 deg with model Type B were lost because a model modification prevented the determination of moment arm, A_3 . The modification was made before the discovery that the error in fabrication described earlier made $A_3 \neq 0$.

An estimate of the error from run-to-run repeatability and balance calibration behavior indicates the lift and drag measurements for model Type A are quite good (±5 percent). Therefore, the static pitchingmoment error is assumed to be introduced by the error in model fabrication rather than in the force measurements.

The data in Fig. 6b for the Type B model appear to be questionable inasmuch as the lift coefficients do not fall between those predicted by

inviscid Newtonian and free-molecule theory. However, the lift forces of the Type B model at 140 deg $\leq \alpha \leq 180$ deg are much smaller than the Type A model (Fig. 6a), and the trend of the data agrees quite well with the theoretical calculations. The maximum value of the lift forces shown in Fig. 6b is approximately 1.4×10^{-4} lbf, which is at the extreme low end of the balance capability. Thus, confidence in these particular data should be restrained. However, it is noteworthy that corresponding normal-force coefficients in Fig. 9b seem quite plausible.

Since prior published data on these models (Refs. 3 through 9) generally are presented in terms of the force coefficients, C_A , C_N , and C_M , the present data were converted to obtain a direct comparison, using the relationships

$$C_{N} = C_{L} \cos \alpha + C_{D} \sin \alpha$$

$$C_{A} = C_{D} \cos \alpha - C_{L} \sin \alpha$$
(3)

Average values of C_L and C_D at a given angle of attack were used for the calculation, and the results are presented in Figs. 8 through 9. Included are typical data from Ref. 3 at $M_{\infty} = 15$ in helium at a Reynolds number of 2.25 x 10⁶ based on model maximum diameter.

Theoretical calculations shown in Figs. 5 through 9 are limited to the two extremes of high Reynolds number, non-viscous theory and freemolecular flow theory. The Newtonian-flow theoretical calculations were taken from Ref. 3 and converted to C_L and C_D . It is assumed that the pressure coefficient is zero on all parts of the body not facing the free stream. The data of Ref. 3 shown in Figs. 7, 8, and 9 were taken using helium as the test medium and are compared to the theoretical curve for $\gamma = 1.4$. However, the effect of γ is quite small in the present case, and comparisons between data taken in helium and air in Ref. 3 show little difference.

The free-molecule flow solutions, shown in the figures, were calculated using the method of Sentman (Ref. 10). The speed ratio value of 7.0 used in the calculation is not identical to the actual free-stream value of 8.2 during the present test. This is because the calculation was done for a previous application (Ref. 1). Since the effect of speed ratio (at high values of the speed ratio) is small, the calculation was not repeated. A wall-to-free-stream temperature ratio of 6.0 was estimated, and fully accommodated diffuse reflection was assumed.

Comparison between the data of Tunnel L with modified Newtonian and free-molecule flow theories indicates large departures from Newtonian theory caused by viscous interaction effects arising because of the high Mach number and very high simulated altitude in this test.

Newtonian theory predicts the behavior of the model quite well when viscous interaction effects may be neglected, as shown by data from tunnels generating high Reynolds numbers. This agreement is true except for model Type A in the range 140 deg $\leq \alpha \leq 180$ deg angle of attack. Experiments have shown (Fig. 7a) that the model is statically stable about 180 deg rather than unstable as predicted by Newtonian theory. Results from Tunnel L qualitatively agree with these experimental results.

SECTION IV CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

The primary purpose of obtaining the data presented in this report was to evaluate the performance of the low-load, three-component balance. However, the data are of interest purely from an aerodynamic viewpoint insofar as they represent unique and useful measurements on a vehicle shape of current interest, under flow conditions which essentially simulate flight conditions at high altitude in a Martian atmosphere. Because of the effective freezing of thermochemical fluid processes at low densities, the Earth's atmosphere also was simulated in this test using nitrogen gas.

The lift and drag force data appear to be reliable, following the theoretical trends and indicating the expected departures from inviscid Newtonian theory. The static pitching-moment data must be considered qualitative because of a fabrication error which necessitated the inclusion of the large drag force in resolving the aerodynamic moment. However, the trends of the static pitching-moment data were as expected. The suitability of the low-load, three-component balance for aerodynamic force tests in low-density flows is demonstrated.

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*The characteristic length (L) is defined as the distance AB in the sketch of the Type A model and the distance ABC in the sketch of the Type B model.

Fig. 1 Model Dimensions and Angles of Attack

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Fig. 2 Nozzle Flow Survey



Fig. 3 Balance Schematic (Ref. 2)

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Fig. 6 Measured Aerodynamic Lift Coefficient

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Fig. 7 Measured Static Pitching-Moment Coefficient

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Fig. 8 Axial-Force Coefficient Calculated from Average Lift and Drag Measurements

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Fig. 9 Normal-Force Coefficients Calculated from Average Lift and Drag Measurements

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TAÉLE I TEST DATA

Run	Model.	α, deg	A ₁ , in.	A ₂ , in.	A ₃ , in,	L ₁ , ^{lb} f	$^{L_2,}_{1b_f}$	D, lb _f	с _г	с ^р	с _м
39	1	0	1.214	-7.86-1	0	0	0	8.928-3	- 0	1,20	0
40	2	- 10	1.214	-7,86-1	-4.20-3	-5,05 ⁻⁵	-20.75 ⁻⁵	8,581 ⁻³	-3,47 ⁻²	1,16	1.77-2
41	2	10	1.214	-7,86-1	4.20-3	6.07-5	20.75 ⁻⁵	8.730 ⁻³	3,61 ⁻²	1.18	-1,42 ⁻²
42	3	-20	1.206	-7.94 ⁻¹	-2, 35 ⁻³	-9.44 ⁻⁵	-38.85 ⁻⁵	9.226 ⁻³	-6.50 ⁻²	1,24	4.85-2
43	3	20	1.206	-7,94-1	2,35 ⁻³	9.77 ⁻⁵	38.60 ⁻⁵	9.374 ⁻³	6.51 ⁻²	1,26	-4.48-2
45	4	-31°26'	1,190	-8.10-1	-1,04 ⁻²	-11,46 ⁻⁵	-56,70 ⁻⁵	9.572 ⁻³	-9.17 ⁻²	1,29	6.01 ⁻²
46	4	31°26'	1,190	-8.10 ⁻¹	1.04 ⁻²	12.80 ⁻⁵	57.30 ⁻⁵	9.721 ⁻³	9.43 ⁻²	1,31	-5.67-2
47	5	- 40	1. 165	-8,35-1	-1.06 ⁻²	-20.90 ⁻⁵	-72.50 ⁻⁵	10.267 ⁻³	-12,57 ⁻²	1.38	6.81-2
48	5	40	1.165	-8.35-1	1,06 ⁻²	20.55 ⁻⁵	73.90 ⁻⁵	10,465 ⁻³	12.71-2	1.41	-7.18 ⁻²
76	7	200 200	1.142 1.142	-8.58 ⁻¹ -8.58 ⁻¹	$-3,51^{-2}$ $-3,51^{-2}$	-129.4^{-5} -129.7^{-5}	-202.2 ⁻⁵ -201.2 ⁻⁵	12.35^{-3} 12.35^{-3}	-4.46^{-1} -4.45^{-1}	1.66	-4.84^{-2} -5.07^{-2}
77	7	200 160	1, 142 1, 142 1, 142	-8.58^{-1} -8.58^{-1} -8.58^{-1}	-3.51^{-2} 3.51^{-2}	$-130,0^{-5}$ 128,4 ⁻⁵ 127,7 ⁻⁵	-200.9^{-5} 215.1 ⁻⁵	12.35^{-3} 12.20^{-3} 12.20^{-3}	-4.45^{-1} 4.62 ⁻¹	1.64	-5.23 1.32-2 2.14-2
78	7	150	1, 142	$-8,60^{-1}$	4.29-2	131.8-5	221.9 ⁻⁵	11.16^{-3} 11.16 ⁻³	4.76^{-1} 4.76^{-1}	1,50	1.96^{-2} 1.95^{-2}
79	7	210	1, 140 1, 140	-8.60^{-1}	-4.29	-131.4^{-5}	-226.5-5	11.31^{-3} 11.31^{-3}	-4.82^{-1} -4.79	1.52	-9.49^{-3} -1.32^{-2}
80	6	219°5' 219°5'	1. 142	-8.58 - 1 -8.58 - 1	*	-109.9^{-5} -109.2^{-5}	-199.9^{-5} -197.0^{-5}	10.47^{-3} 10.47^{-3}	-4.17^{-1} -4.12^{-1}	1,41	*
81	6	140°55' 140°55'	1, 142	-8.58^{-1} -8.58^{-1}	*	$112, 2^{-5}$ $111, 9^{-5}$	198.3^{-5} 197.6^{-5}	10.71^{-3} 10.71^{-3}	4.18 ⁻¹ 4.17 ⁻¹	1, 44	*
82	6	170°32' 170°32'	1.144	-8.56^{-1} -8.56^{-1}	*	78,86 ⁻⁵ 78,86 ⁻⁵	120.2^{-5} 120.9^{-5}	13.19 ⁻³ 13.19 ⁻³	2.68^{-1} 2.69^{-1}	1,78	*
83	6	189°28' 189°28'	1.144 1.144	-8.56^{-1} -8.56^{-1}	*	-80.54^{-5} -78.86^{-5}	-116.3^{-5} -113.4^{-5}	13.44^{-3} 13.44^{-3}	-2.65^{-1} -2.59^{-1}	1,81	*
84	8	192°3 ^ì	1.144 1.144	-8.56^{-1} -8.56^{-1}	-2.37^{-2} -2.37^{-2}	16.18^{-5} 15.84^{-5}	-29.81^{-5} -29.16^{-5}	10.67 ⁻³ 10.67 ⁻³	-1.83 ⁻² -1.79 ⁻²	1,44	5.04 ⁻² 4.79 ⁻²
85	8	167°57'	1.144 1.144	-8.56^{-1} -8.56^{-1}	2.37^{-2} 2.37^{-2}	-18.54^{-5} -18.54^{-5}	29.81 ⁻⁵ 29.81 ⁻⁵	10.81 ⁻³ 10.81 ⁻³	1.52^{-2} 1.52^{-2}	1.46	-5.68 ⁻² -5.88 ⁻²
86	8	140°23'	1.142	-8.58-1 -8.58-1	$\frac{4.15^{-2}}{4.15^{-2}}$	-43.14 ⁻⁵ -43.47 ⁻⁵	35.96 ⁻⁵ 35.32 ⁻⁵	9,672 ⁻³ 9,672 ⁻³	-9.65^{-3} -1.10^{-2}	1,30	-1.08^{-1} -1.07^{-1}
87	8	219°37'	1.142 1.142	$-8,58^{-1}$ $-8,58^{-1}$	$-4, 15^{-2}$ $-4, 15^{-2}$	39.43^{-5} 40.44^{-5}	-35.64^{-5} -36.61^{-5}	9.721 ⁻³ 9.721 ⁻³	5.10^{-3} 5.15^{-3}	1,31	9.49^{-2} 1.00^{-1}
88	9	200°10'	1.142 1.142	-8.58^{-1} -8.58^{-1}	-3.28^{-2} -3.28^{-2}	20.56^{-5} 21.23^{-5}	-40.82^{-5} -38.89^{-5}	10.47 ⁻³ 10.47 ⁻³	-2,73 ⁻² -2,38 ⁻²	1.41	6.50^{-2} 6.26^{-2}
89	9	159°50'	1, 142 1, 142 1, 142	-8,58-1 -8,58-1 -8,58-1	3.28 ⁻² 3.28 ⁻² 3.28 ⁻²	-28.98^{-5} -29.66^{-5} -29.32^{-5}	44.71-5 45.36-5 43.74-5	10.17 ⁻³ 10.17 ⁻³ 10.17 ⁻³	$2.12^{-2} \\ 2.11^{-2} \\ 1.94^{-2}$	1,37	-1.03-1 -1.06-1 -1.01-1
91	9	209°47'	1. 142` 1. 140 1. 140	-8.58^{-1} -8.60^{-1} -8.60^{-1}	3.28^{-2} -3.26^{-2} -3.26^{-2}	-29.32^{-5} 24.26 ⁻⁵ 26.29 ⁻⁵	44.39 ⁻⁵ -43.09 ⁻⁵ -43.74 ⁻⁵	$ \begin{array}{r} 10.17^{-3} \\ 9.721^{-3} \\ 9.721^{-3} \end{array} $	2.03^{-2} -2.52^{-2} -2.35^{-2}	1, 31	-1.03 ⁻¹ 8.89 ⁻² 9.66 ⁻²

Run 44 was repeat of run 43 Run 90 with Model 9 at 150°13'lost because of balance being out of alignment.

*Unable to measure moment arm A_3

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This is a report of results and analysis of measurements of forces on spherically capped cones of 10-deg half-angle, with and without conical afterbodies. These data were obtained during the course of an evaluation of a new three-component balance for use in a low-density, hypersonic wind tunnel. Comparisons are made with modified Newtonian and free-molecule theories. Measurements were made in nitrogen gas at a nominal Mach number of 9.8 and unit Reynolds number of 760 in. ⁻¹ . The suitability of the low-load, three-component balance for measuring aerodynamic forces in low- density flows is demonstrated.							
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